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"OUR HOME, OUR COUNTRY, AND OUR BROTHER MAN."

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## THESE THINGS DO!

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For the Maine Farmer!

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## Maine Farmer.

Z. A. GILBERT, Agricultural Editor.

Send-time is upon us again. Are you all ready?

The Supreme Court of Iowa has made a decision that "dogs are property." Hereafter in that State no man can steal another man's dog without being held for theft.

That grand, old garden favorite, the dahlia, is coming again into popular notice. It is a strong plant to start with, and then give plenty of room in a rich, mellow soil for the root growth.

The cow stable can be kept substantially odorless if proper precautions be taken. First, it must be ventilated, and second, a deodorizer used. For the latter purpose, use a sprinkling of dry earth, wood or gypsum.

If you would have harmless cattle, destroy the starting horns on the young calves. As soon as the growing point of the horn is felt through the skin, shave off the hair over the knob and rub in caustic potash. When properly applied it will destroy the growing point of the horny tissue and the underlying periosteum from which the horn grows. This is easier and better than laming.

The tuberculous splurge in Massachusetts has spent its fury and is gradually approaching an extreme in the opposite direction; leaving the field practically unoccupied save that the State has paid some heavy appropriations and the vets have got some money out of it. From an appropriation of \$300,000 the sum has been cut down from time to time till this year the committee on agriculture recommended but \$65,000. Better that some common sense obtain and carry a level head and a steady hand. The expenditure of all that money has really accomplished nothing in the extermination of tuberculosis.

Canada bacon has been selling abroad at a premium over bacon from the States; of course bringing to the front the question whether the Canada "bacon pig" is actually superior to the one fed hogs this side the line. Arthur & Co., last December, purchased in Canada 150 bacon hogs, cured them in their packing house in Chicago and sent the product abroad to test the market.

The bacon from this experimental lot was entirely satisfactory and sold at a premium in the English market. It yet remains to be proved whether packers can pay an advance price for the like of the Canada "bacon pig" sufficient to offset the increased cost of producing such in the corn belt.

## WHERE THE OLD ORCHARD STOOD.

Most of the orchards set out by the early settlers were very properly located around about the farm buildings. If those old trees have not already disappeared they have lost their value and now remain worthless cumberbs of the soil. Yet the land in which they stood remains, and it is now as formerly desirable that the orchard be near the buildings. The question very frequently arises, whether young trees will thrive if set out on the land where those old orchards have been removed.

The writer has had some experience in the matter in question. We occupy one of those century farms where it was very desirable that the orchard be continued in its old location for purposes of shelter. The soil is an ideal one for apple trees, and for the hundred years it has been devoted to fruit growing it has been kept in a highly productive condition by liberal manuring. The usual rotation of grass and cultivation has been followed with this as with the rest of the farm. There are only four of the old trees left standing at the present time. As they have been removed from time to time the effort has been made to keep the orchard full by setting young trees.

These young trees, however, have not been a success. While the land has produced beautiful crops of corn, grain and grass, showing no want of the elements of fertility whatever, yet for the most part the trees there is something lacking. The young trees have grown well for a few years, and until they arrived at a good bearing size, where they have appeared to grow pre-

maturely old, branches begin to die and finally fall entirely. On a part of this land two settings of trees have been tried, but only to fail in the same way again. They were trees of our own growing, and set on fresh land on other parts of the farm, and on other farms in the vicinity, are as fine trees as can be found anywhere. Evidently the old trees feeding upon that soil for so many years have unfitted it for the reproduction of another such orchard, and no ordinary methods of fertilization will restore what has been taken from it. We have given up the effort of establishing another orchard in that land. To others like situated we would say, better set the trees on fresh land where none have stood before. Such experiments that end in failure are expensive. Set the trees where, given good care, they will be sure to make long-lived and productive trees.

## BRICK SILOS.

We like permanent structures. When erecting a building, we like to feel we are building for time. An objection has always been obtained with cheap, wooden silos. True, the cost is light, but they are not lasting.

A Wisconsin farmer writes to *Hoar's Dairyman*, giving his experience with a brick silo. His silo is 16 feet in diameter, and 24 feet deep. He excavated seven feet below the basement, and built of stone to the top of basement, 14 feet. A brick wall was then laid on the stone to the height of 10 feet. The brick wall was laid in two courses, one inch apart, laying every fifth brick in every fifth row endways. The cost of the silo was as follows:

10 cords stone	\$20.00
7,000 brick at \$6	42.00
6 barrels cement	7.50
43 bushels lime	19.00
10 loads sand	5.00
Mason work	55.00
Total cost	\$119.50

And he has a silo that keeps ensilage in perfection, and will last a lifetime. Eighteen thousand of brick, he states will build a round silo, 16 feet in diameter, and 25 feet deep, constructed wholly of brick. Of course, such a structure would necessarily have to be stayed by timbers to prevent spreading, or by iron bands in the form of hoops.

Is it not possible we have been unwisely running after cheap, wooden silos, requiring re-lining after a few years in use? According to the figures given, an indestructible silo should cost but a few dollars more than the perishable wooden structure. We call attention to this as a matter worth looking into, by those contemplating building a silo.

## ALASKA FARMING.

It will be remembered that the Department of Agriculture at Washington appointed a commission a year ago, to investigate the agricultural and horticultural possibilities of Alaska. The commission consisted of Hon. Benton Killin of the Oregon Agricultural College, and Dr. W. H. Evans of the Office of Experiment Stations, Washington. These gentlemen spent last summer in Alaska, visiting the Southern coast region. Their report to Congress contains matters of interest now that country is attracting so much attention.

Much of the region visited is very mountainous. The Southern coast region is naturally divided by the St. Elias and Fairweather mountains into two characteristic regions. The Southeastern portion is heavily wooded. The most common forest tree is the Sitka spruce, which grows to a great size. A few of the sawmill trees of this kind, four or five feet in diameter, were common. Other valuable trees occur in considerable quantities, such as red and yellow Alaskan cedar, hemlocks, with birches and cottonwoods in abundance in some localities.

The Southwestern section is characterized by a wealth of grasses. The common *Poa pratensis* is seen growing everywhere, and timothy and orchard grass grow exceedingly well. White clover is spreading everywhere. Scattered plants of red clover were growing vigorously.

So far as could be learned but little has been attempted with cereals. Scattered plants of oats, barley and rye were seen, but these were headed on the last day of July. Wheat was matured at Sitka in 1896. Buckwheat is said to have been grown in the Cook Inlet region, although none was seen.

Nearly every village has a number of gardens in which potatoes, turnips, carrots, radishes, lettuce, onions, etc., are grown. Specimens of potatoes weighing more than a pound each have been forwarded to Washington. Alaska is preeminently a berry country. Wild strawberries, currants, raspberries, blueberries, huckleberries and cranberries abound. But little attempt has been made to domesticate any of these. A few plum trees have been planted but they have not yet fruited. The native wild crabapple abounds throughout Southeastern Alaska, although no attempts, it seems, have been made to graft any of our hardy varieties of apples on it.

The live stock industry is only represented by a few horses, cows, beef cattle,

pigs, chickens, and one small flock of sheep. Only a limited quantity of hay is made, the weather being generally unfavorable for drying it. In a few instances silos have been employed.

The climate of the coast region of Southern Alaska is not extremely cold, though very moist. Minus ten degrees is seldom experienced in Winter, while in Summer seventy to eighty degrees is about the maximum.

This report also contains a brief preliminary report of Dr. Sheldon Jackson of the Bureau of Education, on the agriculture of the Yukon valley, based upon his tour of that section last season. Flourishing gardens were seen 35 miles from the mouth of the Yukon. Potatoes weighing more than a pound each and turnips weighing ten pounds each were seen. At Circle City and Fort Cudahy, good gardens are maintained by the commercial companies. Peas, beans, beets, radishes, lettuce and cabbage are grown at those places. A vegetable garden has been established at Dawson, and a few miles below Circle City, 3,000 pounds of turnips were grown last year. Grasses and berries abound in the Yukon valley as in the coast region.

From these reports it seems altogether probable that local demand for many products of the soil will ultimately be supplied in that country, and that Secretary Wilson's plan of establishing an experiment station there as an aid in developing its agriculture, is after all a movement to be commended.

## COMMERCIAL MANURES.

There is no doubt but Maine farmers are placing too much dependence on commercial manures, as offered by selling agents or sold on the market. Manufacturers' agents of these goods have frequently informed us that Maine is the best field for the sale of fertilizers of a State covered by their trade. The large increase of late in the number of firms pushing the sale of their make of fertilizers in this State is evidence of the correctness of our good standing before the fertilizer trade.

From a business standpoint, good standing is a high credit, yet it is no credit to the business side of Maine farming that our farmers are buying so largely of commercial manures, and for three very good reasons:

1. They cost more than they ought.
2. In a large measure of their use they do not return a fair equivalent for the outlay.
3. They are depended upon at the neglect of home resources.

It is not our purpose at this time to discuss the matter of excessive cost, further than to say that through an expensive system of sales handed down from a possibly former necessity, there is too wide a margin between original cost and the farmer who uses it, a margin which the farmer needs on the credit side of the account to justify its liberal use.

Under the second heading there is no question but a large amount of these manures are purchased and used, where, from a failure to understand the conditions of their successful use, and a neglect to fulfill all requirements necessary to a realization of their full benefits, the purchaser never secures a new dollar for an old one laid out. Farming with fertilizers works admirably on paper. Given, the application of a named number of pounds of nitrogen, of phosphoric acid of potash to the soil, and a crop of whatever kind planted, requiring a like quantity of the elements named, will result. The theory is simple, reasonable, easily applied. But in the application results do not pan out in specified measures. Between that purchase and the harvest there are many exacting requirements and influential conditions.

In the first place the application of elements made is never represented in full in the resulting crop. Or in other words they do not produce in practice so much crop as they will figure in theory. In ordinary farming here is a wide discrepancy, and it is the cause of much disappointment.

In the second place much of the soil preparation is so crude and defective that the elements applied to the soil do not work their largest possible results. Here again is where expectations result in disappointments and money loss. The purchased fertilizers do not return their full cost.

The successful and therefore profitable use of these highly concentrated manures is extremely exacting on the condition of the soil to which they are applied and also on its preparation by the farmer handling it. Crude work is not a fitting accompaniment to farming with chemicals. Ordinary commercial fertilizers must do their best in order to be profitably used in crop production. This can be the case only where conditions of soil and its preparation are all right.

Not only must condition of soil and preparation be of the best, but the soil must be fat with fertility in order for the largest possible measure of the elements applied in the fertilizers to appear through the resulting crops. Hence the recommendation of fertilizer manufacturers so often repeated to "use the fertilizers with the barn manure." It is high farming all through that is called for with the profitable use of commercial fertilizers. Paying crops cannot

be realized from a run out soil from commercial fertilizers alone.

A reliance on commercial farms of manure tends to divert attention from the saving of the home supply. Too many of the readers of the *Farmer* are depending on the commercial article instead of applying their efforts to the saving of that which is within reach at home. There is no manure so cheap as that which can be had for the saving. No farmer can afford neglect here and then make up the deficiency by buying the commercial fertilizer.

## DEEP VS SHALLOW PLOWING

## An Important Problem Discussed.

As the season for preparation of the land is close at hand, and but a small percent. plow in the Fall, it has been thought of general interest to secure the opinion of representative farmers in different parts of the State, based upon their experience, covering the important question of deep or shallow plowing. With this in view the following letter was sent out:

AUGUSTA, Me., April 13, 1897.

Dear Sir: There is a wide difference in the practice of farmers in regard to deep or shallow plowing. Intelligent farmers always have a theory on which they base their practice. Therefore, whether you plow deep or shallow, you have good reasons for your course. Will you kindly tell the readers of the *Maine Farmer* which you recommend, and give the reasons why your method is preferred? Also state whether Spring or Fall plowing is the better practice. By complying with this request you will confer a favor on the *Maine Farmer*.

The replies call for no explanations; they voice the experience of some of our most observing and practical farmers, and indicate the change in public sentiment regarding this first great question during late years.

BETHEL. On deep soils and especially where twotwograss abounds, I prefer to turn a furrow eight or nine inches in depth, thereby ridding the surface of a large proportion of the grass roots and making a loose, friable surface soil for the harrow and hoe, without disturbing the soil. This should be done just before plowing, except in the case of heavy clay soils, which are improved by plowing in the Fall, so that the frost may work them to better advantage. Fall plowing is preferable in light soils on account of forwarding the work when the farmer usually has more time and the team is in better condition. Fall plowed lands require more harrowing and working in the Spring to lighten them and prepare them for use. Prefer shallow plowing on light soils not affected by twotwograss as the decaying sod is more available to supply the needs of the plant. It is also better when the surface soil is of a different composition from that just beneath, as is often the case in made land, or in poor soil which has been highly cultivated for a number of years.

C. E. VALENTINE.

NEWFIELD. Your question in relation to deep or shallow plowing reminds me of a man considerably beyond the meridian of life arguing solid for the hay crop. This was at the dairy meeting at Bangor, and he seemed thoroughly absorbed with the idea, so much so that because his farm was particularly adapted to grass, and grass alone, he thought every farm must be particularly adapted to grass production, and that every farmer, whatever may be the nature of his soil, can accomplish as much at raising grass. Mr. Terry may be able to revive his Western farm with clover alone as a fertilizer, but it is a mooted question in my mind whether it can be applied successfully in Maine. Now, deep or shallow plowing seems to be along this same line of thought. It depends entirely upon the depth of soil. If it be a deep loam or clay bottom, and my farm is gravelly loam, I think it necessary to subsoil a little, if possible, at every plowing. This frees those elements lying dormant, so necessary for crop production, mixing the new earth with the old, so to speak, and with good and thorough cultivation, and this is necessary under all circumstances, the soil is renewed and improved in proportion to the added soil nutrients. As to Fall or Spring plowing I am frank to say that were it not for killing out the twotwograss and to save time in the Spring, I would not plow a furrow in the Fall. I have no doubt that much of the best soil is blown away by the strong winter winds. The action of the wind and rains, if for no other reason, is proof positive that Spring plowing leads all the rest. While I prefer Spring plowing, it is not so much when you plow as how well you plow. Thorough cultivation is an important factor in successful crop production. Plow deep and well, and when you think you have harrowed enough, harrow again, and I firmly believe that if the farmers of Maine would till better, it would be a saving of thousands of dollars in fertilizers. I raised fifty bushels of prime shelled corn to the acre last year, and used only eleven dollars' worth of Maine State Grange seedling down fertilizer.

I. O. STRAW.

BOWDOINSHAM. We plow about 30 acres of clay loam land yearly, almost wholly in the Fall. Have experimented with deep and shallow plowing, and as it is almost impossible to plow deep in the early Fall, our practice is to plow 5 to 7 inches. We would plow all our land in late November, just before the ground freezes, if possible, the frost and Spring thawing working on the land in this condition, we believe, is of much value to it in seeding. If we could get fertilizers and grain all just two inches below the surface, we would much prefer to have it all just there, and with the land plowed 5 to 7 inches deep, there is seed bed enough, drainage enough, and new soil enough for 6 or 8 years, if you work in the proper fertilizer.

W. B. KENDALL.

EAST SUMNER. I consider that the character of the soil and the crop to be cultivated should govern the matter of deep or shallow plowing. Some soils are so shallow that to plow deeply is to bring the unfertile subsoil to the surface, and bury the best soil where it is less available for the majority of crops. But if heavily manured there is less objection than otherwise, and there is thereby a tendency to improve the soil for future years. Again, the roots of some plants spread out naturally near the surface, where they get the benefit of the warm rays of the sun, while other plants send their roots deeper, and thrive best when they can feed in the cooler sub-strata of soil. It is difficult to lay down rules where each case is to be studied from the double standpoint of soil and plant, but perhaps it may be safe to apply this rule in most cases. Do not plow the soil deeper than you can thoroughly fertilize it.

W. H. EASTMAN.

CLINTON. In complying with your request of April 13, in regard to my method of plowing, when and how, whether deep or shallow, and why? would say: "My object in plowing is to pulverize the soil. If it is done in a careless or slipshod manner, no after cultivation, however thorough and skillful, can fully make up for imperfect plowing. When I possibly can, my plowing is all done in the Fall, for several reasons. First, the team is in better condition; 2d, we have more time to do it; 3d, the ground is not so lumpy in Spring. As to the depth to plow, I am aware that most farmers are inclined to shallow plowing. Of course the character of the soil should govern the depth. A sandy soil would not require the same depth as a clay soil. If a soil contains an equal amount of plant food to a depth of two feet, it certainly must be better for plant growth to have one foot of that soil to draw nourishment from than only five or six inches, as would be the case in shallow plowing. My soil is a clay loam free from stone. We run the plow eight inches, which, from experience, we have found to be the most profitable depth, but plow as we may, I believe it should be done in the Fall, so as to help out the short, busy seed time in Spring. E. H. GERALD.

EAST AUBURN. Were I at work for grass on old land, I would not plow more than 5 inches and plow in the stable manure. Then the new plants will have the old, as well as the dressing in reach to feed on. One advantage of deep plowing is to bring up plant food which sometimes, though not always, exists below the usual depth of tillage. It also assists in moisture supply, but I think there is far more loss by getting the sod and dressing too deep than is gained by the deep plowing and its advantages. Take up a sod anywhere and you will find most of the roots within four inches of the surface. Where we plant corn we usually plow 6 or 8 inches and put the dressing on top. At the next plowing we plow as shallow as we can so as to keep the manure as near the top as possible. As to time of plowing we do most of ours in the Fall. It has the advantage of being cool at that season and it saves having to do it in the Spring when business is driving. But there are objections to Fall plowing. The rains wash badly at times and it is the best that goes. Then, in exposed places the wind never carries away the rocks, but the finest and best. Each must take many things into consideration and use his common sense and best judgment.

J. W. RICKER.

GREENE. On run out land I would plow only as deep as I had means of fertilizing thoroughly. It is a wrong practice to turn over nine or ten inches of poor soil and enrich only three inches of the top. On land under a good state of cultivation, I am in favor of deep plowing, for the reason that crops that have a deep, loose soil to root in will better stand a severe drought than where the roots are near the surface. The roots of nearly all farm crops will go as deep as they can find food to work upon. Therefore, it seems to me that generally, deep plowing is preferable. We get the roots away from the surface. The crop will stand up better during high winds; if blown down will right itself more quickly and generally than in shallow plowing. Also, the crop will be healthier, stronger, and arrive at maturity more quickly than it possibly can with shallow plowing. The best time to plow is when we have the most leisure to plow. The only objection that I can see to plowing in the Fall is that in ex-

posed localities where snow comes on late the soil is liable to be blown away and lost.

C. S. STEVENS.

MR. VERNON. I commenced farming with the determination to do something smart. My first effort was to get the stones off the tillage. That was proved to be all right. The next thing was to plow deep. This I followed for several years being told by agriculturists that I had that farm underneath the one I used as was valuable as the one cultivated, so I bought an Eagle plow, No. 25, and plowed my land eleven inches deep, setting the furrows edgewise as when they got so far they were on the largest base and refused to go any further. Then I swapped my Eagle for a Varney, No. 6, and this turned the furrows completely when I soon learned that my underneath farm had been left right where the Lord placed it. For the last thirty years and more I have endeavored to plow my land for planting six inches deep; turn it well, have it smooth; harrow it well lengthwise and then crosswise putting on the manure before harrowing and harrowing as long as I can see the manure. By the way, if there is any one thing that I believe in more than anything else it is in harrowing. After the land is well harrowed over it again thoroughly. Harrow till the surface is sufficiently compact to retain the moisture and the dressing. On such soils the more barn dressing we use, and the more vegetable matter we plow under, the better. I do not plow such land more than four or five inches, and not on any soils or under any conditions would I plow under dressing more than six inches, but the next time you may go down an inch or two deeper. In the matter of Fall or Spring plowing, I may say more later, but I will say here, we do all our plowing in the Fall, for two reasons; 1st, because we apply all our dressing at that time, and want to work it in thoroughly; 2d, because time is too precious in seed time to be wasted in doing anything that can be done just as well, to say the least, in the Fall.

R. W. ELLIS.

HOWES' CORNER. The character and condition of the land would have something to do with it. For smooth and well-kept fields I prefer medium depth. For a hard crop I would plow about seven inches. If the ground were to be re-seeded, I would plow about five inches. Why I prefer medium or shallow plowing is, I like to have the soil as near the surface as possible and give good culture. I prefer late Fall plowing to Spring. Usually there is more time, and the team is in better condition to work. If the ground is full of wild eye—as most fields are—many of the roots will be killed by freezing. If it becomes necessary to plow when the land is too wet, Fall plowing will not injure the ground as much as Spring plowing, as the frost will keep the ground from packing.

D. H. THING.

No. FAIRFIELD. In regard to deep and shallow plowing, I have practiced both in a measure, but principally I plow rather shallow, from five to six inches. My reason for doing so is that it does not require so much dressing. In regard to Spring and Fall plowing, I prefer to plow in the Fall, any time after haying, when the ground is suitable. I like this way because I can advance my Spring's work, by hauling out the dressing, and preparing the ground for early sowing in the Spring, as I sow principally and plant but little.

A. C. GOODWIN.

MR. VASSALBORO. My usual practice has been what I call shallow plowing, from five to eight inches deep; but the depth I plow depends on the kind of soil, and the use I put it to. I have sometimes plowed deep on high, loamy soil, for the purpose of smothering the twotwograss. I have also plowed deep, in preparing the ground for setting an orchard, plowing in a good coat of coarse, strawy manure. When I have done this, the trees have made a good growth. The land that I plow shallow is a heavy clay with about two inches of such on top. My purpose is to keep the mud on top to prevent the clay from baking. One reason I have for shallow plowing is that I want to keep the manure near the surface, where most of the plant roots are. As to Spring or Fall plowing, I will say that I like to break up the sod ground in the Fall. I have realized better crops from sod land broken in the Fall than from the same kind of land broken in the Spring; the other conditions being the same. I think that for fallow ground, Spring plowing may be best on many soils, but on my light soil, old ground plowed in the Fall and well harrowed in the Spring, with a spring toothed harrow will make a good seed bed for anything. In conclusion, I will say that I believe in plowing and harrowing land often and well; handling only when dry. We often see what is called "worn out land," but it was not worn out by the plow, but by the mowing machine, that was searching for the few blades of grass that grew on each acre.

F. C. DRUMMOND.

EMBRAY. You ask whether I plow deep or shallow, and my reasons therefore. I answer, that depends entirely upon the character of the soil. If it has a hard, impervious subsoil, I believe in deep cultivation, for the roots of most of our cultivated plants run much deeper

## BEEF COMPETITION.

A strong competition for the English beef trade is appearing from South America. In 1893, Argentine shipped 6,882 cattle to England. In the four years since, the trade has increased till in 1897 the number of cattle shipped to that country reached 73,867, an increase of more than ten fold. In the same years the shipment of cattle from the United States to England has not quite doubled in numbers. Hence it appears that Argentine is creeping on to our cattle trade in England at a pace that soon will be seriously felt. There are vast areas of cattle growing country in South America, natural grass lands on which cattle are grown at nominal cost. These cattle have only to be improved by the introduction of better blood, as has been done on the ranges in this country, to become a formidable rival in the cattle trade.

## WORMS IN FIGS.

Mr. Editor: Can you tell me, through your valuable paper, what to do for worms in figs, and oblige.

A SUBSCRIBER.

Swine are afflicted with a great variety of worms and different treatment would be indicated if the symptoms were more fully given. Probably the most effective remedy is santonin, given in one-third teaspoonful doses morning and evening for three days, followed by a brisk cathartic, such as calomel in teaspoonful doses. First of all it may be well to try mixing wood ashes with soap suds giving with the soap. If this fails to relieve, give the symptoms in full when further treatment will be indicated.

## Is This Worth Anything?

The farmer may have his table spread with the freshest butter from the dairy and with newly laid eggs, vegetables that are not store-sick, milk without being watered and, in fact, the best and freshest of farm products. He also has on hand plenty of pure air which is just as essential to his health as the food with which his table is spread.

MR. C. F. DEARTH.

## Do You Believe It?

To destroy caterpillars, bore a hole deep enough to reach the sap, fill with sulphur and plug it up. The result is magical. The sap takes up the sulphur to every branch and twig, and the caterpillars at once die. The above is given as a sure cure. Have any of the *Farmer* readers tried it?

—The premium list of the Central Washington Agricultural Society, for its fair to be held at Mabius, Sept. 20-21, 1898, is one of the nearest and most attractive received at this office. Other societies might well take it as a model. It contains many fine lists, showing places of interest in and around Mabius, the Grand Stand and various exhibition buildings of the Society, some of Mabius' prominent citizens, and several of the famous Hood Farm Jerseys. The rules and regulations are given in full, one of which provides that "No spirituous liquors will be allowed to be sold, or no gambling or lottery schemes will be allowed on the grounds; all violations of this rule will be dealt with according to law."

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I have a little million of them, grown on high ground, consequently the roots are well ripened and can be transplanted safely. The prices are as low as an honest man can sell for. Also I have  
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PER WEEK.  
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1898.  
Steamer will leave Augusta at 1:30, Hallowell at 2, Gardiner 3, Richmond 4:30 and Bath at 6 o'clock, for Boston, on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays.  
Returning, will leave Boston Monday, Wednesday and Friday evenings at 6 o'clock for all landings on the Kennebec river.  
Direct connections made at Bath for Boothbay and Wiscasset upon arrival of Boston steamers.  
Freight taken at low rates, handled carefully and delivered at destination promptly. Steamer is staunch, commodious and in every way suited to the comfort and safety of the passengers.  
Fares from Augusta, Hallowell and Gardiner, \$1.50. Richmond, \$1.25. Bath, \$1.00.  
JAS. S. DRAKE, Free.  
A. L. PARKER, Agent, Augusta.

**Maine Farmer.**

FAIRS IN 1898.

Androscoggin Valley, Canton—Sept. 27-29.  
Cumberland Co., Gorham—Sept. 13-15.  
Cumberland, West Cumberland, Sept. 27-29.  
East Edinburg Farmers' Club—Sept. 21-23.  
Eastern State, Bangor—Aug. 30-Sept. 2.  
Franklin County, Farmington—Sept. 22-24.  
Gray Park, Gray—Aug. 30-Sept. 1.  
Hancock County, Bluehill—Sept. 20-22.  
Kennebec County, Readfield—Sept. 13-15.  
Lincoln Co., Damariscotta—Sept. 21-23.  
Maine State, Lewiston—Sept. 5-7.  
No. Waldo, Unity—Sept. 21-23.  
Oxford County, Norway—Sept. 20-22.  
Shelburne Valley, Cornish—Aug. 30-Sept. 1.  
Ripley, Portland—Aug. 22-24.  
South Kennebunk, Wiscasset—Sept. 13-15.  
Waldo and Penobscot, Monroe—Sept. 13-15.  
Washington County, Penobscot—Sept. 14-16.  
Washington Central, Machias—Sept. 20-21.  
West Washington, Cherryfield—Sept. 14-16.

For the Maine Farmer.

THE DE LAVAL vs. V. S. SEPARATORS.

Mr. Editor: I think it but just to myself and sons that a statement of facts be placed before the readers of the Farmer.

For some years Mr. Brett, acting for the A. L. & E. F. Goss Company, agents for the United States, and the agents for the De Laval, have been trying to persuade us to try a separator. I will confess that I rather reluctantly agreed to do so this season, yielding on condition that we were to give them a fair trial and then, if we thought, all things considered, it was for our interest to buy, we would do so, otherwise we should not. So on Feb. 24, Messrs. Brett & Goss sent up a U. S. machine and the next day Mr. Edson came with the De Laval and asked that we test the machines together. I told Mr. Edson that other things being equal, if we bought, we should buy the U. S., for several reasons which I need not here enumerate. Mr. E. implied that all he would ask was that we would give each a fair trial and buy the best. We very soon realized that unless we bought both machines there was to be trouble. I at once told both agents that we would only on our own tests. That I did not care how many tests they made, we should not be governed by them. We have had a Babcock machine several years, and one of my sons took the short course in dairying at the State College, and was there instructed in its use, and to put the matter mildly, I would as soon trust him to make tests for me, as agents who seek to twist facts to favor their machine. He had no selfish interest to induce him to favor either machine, the only object was to find the best. We tested those machines as carefully and as honestly as we knew how. We are charged with not running the U. S. by its rules, but they don't say what rules we violated. The only violation that I know of was that we used warm instead of hot water to flush out the bowl. One reason for this was, hot water melted the cream from the bowl so that it came off in flakes so large the cream outlet could not pass them, so they went into the skimmed milk. Then in our test of Mar. 8, we gave the U. S. 52 turns of the crank, while we gave the De Laval 48. As high speed is favorable to clean separation, it can't be said that we were favoring the "Baby" in that. In other respects we treated both machines alike. We have given to the public but few of our figures. The tests invariably have been (when no agents were in the mess) in favor of the De Laval. The figures as they appear in the Farmer of Apr. 7, are correct with one exception. The washings of the bowl of the U. S. tested 3.0 instead of 30-100. Probably in warmer weather there would be less cream left in the bowl with either machine. It is claimed that our milk "varied greatly," testing in the morning 4.40%, and at evening 5%.

Mr. Brett, in testing the U. S., found but little butter fat, 4.40% in the whole milk, so there was but little to account for. He found the amount of fat and divided by .85 to get the pounds of butter, and at same time asked me how much butter we were making. When told, he with his pencil tried to obliterate his work of division, saying that "that didn't amount to anything." The paper which he used we have carefully preserved. Those figures did amount to nothing in favor of the U. S. machine, because there was not fat enough in proportion to the milk to make much butter as we were actually making by nearly two pounds per day. Mr. Brett was not willing that we take the butter into consideration, as "butter was an uncertain quantity." I told him that butter was what we were after. That we were trying, not so much to find how much fat went into the butter, but how much fat went into the skimmed milk and dishwater that ought to go into the butter.

When we decided to buy the De Laval I told my sons that Mr. Edson would want a testimonial from us, but that I did not want to give one, as I did not wish to injure the Goss Company. It was given only after seeing a false statement which was circulated at Bangor and Yarmouth. I think if the public are to know anything about it they ought to know the truth. The testimonial was given with the understanding that it was to be printed in a pamphlet of testimonials soon to be issued by the Company. We did not think we were to be drawn in this manner before the public. I was offered the agency by both parties if I would buy their machine. The U. S. agent held out the greater inducement of the two, but have accepted no

brides. We bought on the merits of the machine after two weeks' comparison. I have withheld some facts which I had thought I would give, but if no more false charges are brought against us and we can be allowed to use our machine in peace, we will keep them from the public. I am sorry to feel called upon to reveal as much as I have.  
J. W. RICKER.

WORRY: ITS EFFECTS UPON THE BRAIN AND SYSTEM.

ESSAY DELIVERED AT TURNER BY DR. F. C. WATSON.

I wonder how many people nowadays have ever stopped to think what effect worry has upon the system. I wonder how many are aware and realize that it is a destructive process; that worrying injures, yes, actually destroys brain tissue, i. e. cells of which the brain is composed. My belief that people, for the most part, are not cognizant of the deleterious effects of worrying has led to the preparation of this paper.

Modern science has brought to light nothing more curiously interesting than the fact that worry will kill. More remarkable still, it has determined and can give in full detail, on account of recent discoveries, just how worry does kill. It is believed by many scientists, those who have followed most carefully the growth of the science of brain diseases, that scores of deaths set down to other causes are due to worry and that alone. The theory is a simple one. It is so simple that any one can understand it. Briefly put, it amounts to this: that worry injures beyond repair certain of the cells of the brain; that the brain, being the nutritive center of the system, is affected, the other organs become gradually injured, and some disease of these organs, or a combination of them arising, death finally ensues.

Thus it is that worry kills. Incidentally, like many another disease it creeps upon the brain in the form of a single, constant, never lost idea, and, as the dropping of water over a period of years will wear away a stone, just so does worry, gradually, imperceptibly, but no less surely, destroy the brain cells that lead all the rest and are, so to speak, the commanding officers of mental power, health and motion. Worry, to make the theory stronger, is an irritation at certain points, that if continued has serious results, but produces little harm if it comes only at intervals or irregularly. Fatigue is not necessarily an evil. Quite the contrary. Nature seems to give us everything in sharp contrast; light and darkness, heat and cold, Summer and Winter, sunshine and rain, motion and rest alternate constantly in life and make it all the more agreeable. So a strong, active man in health has fatigue followed by rest, and he never fully enjoys rest unless his muscles become fatigued. I speak, of course, of moderate fatigue.

Occasional worrying of the system the brain can easily cope with. But the iteration and reiteration of one idea of a disquieting sort the cells of the brain are not proof against. It is precisely as if the top of the skull were laid bare and the surface of the brain were struck lightly with a hammer every few seconds with mechanical precision for days and weeks, with never a sign of let-up or the failure of a stroke. Such a succession of blows from a hammer would, of course, injure the brain irretrievably almost immediately; but that is the principle. For just in this way does the annoying idea, the maddening thought that will not be done away with, strike or fall upon certain nerve cells, never ceasing, and week by week diminishing the vitality of the diseased organisms that compose the brain.

The injury worry does is a curious one and the way its influence works is a marvelous strange way. The best method of explaining it is to use the exact words of one of the greatest neurologists, or nerve specialists, in the country, Dr. Geo. M. Jacoby, of New York: "Any one-sided word or effort," says Dr. Jacoby, "is deleterious; is harmful. A person worries on a single subject the same as people frequently overlook certain muscles. But in the former case the worry is constant. Now, the concentration of thought and mind not only tires out the nerve cells that are being used in this constant worry, but the other nerve cells which are not used at all, are, so to speak, dormant and waste for lack of sufficient exercise. In corroboration of this, it is a well-known fact that a person who gets ill from worry continues to worry about that one thing, broods over it, lets it absorb him and his thoughts to the exclusion of his other interests, bringing into play, it is supposed, continually the same set of nerve cells. It is the same as if a man used one muscle or set of muscles continuously, only the effect upon the nerve cells is far worse.

"That is the reason," says Dr. Jacoby, "why a brain will wear out far more quickly under worry than under work. Under work there is an alternation of exercise and repose. There must be a judicious alternation between the two. All parts of the brain must be exercised and then allowed to rest."

The cells that would be affected by worry are those in that portion of the brain that preside over the intellect, the vortex of the frontal lobes as the

upper layer, this lying directly under the upper part of the forehead, where the hair begins in the average man, or possibly a trifle above that. It is wonderful the amount of work the brain can stand if given proper intervals of repose. I do not believe a brain ever broke down yet from over work, many have from worry. The worry, the thought, the one idea grows more and more on the person as time goes on, until finally he is unable to throw it off at all. It haunts him at all times and he cannot will it away. It takes possession of him in his subconscious hours, and clings to him even in sleep. He dreams of it each and every night, and wakes up to have it on his mind again on the moment. Through this the mind wears out in one direction, one set or area of cells is affected. In some men it might be one set, in others, another. As to that, science does not know. But it does know that worry practically destroys one set of nerve cells. Now these are related; they are the results of work, not continued worry, these poisonous "fatigue products," are thrown off by the cells themselves during periods of rest and relaxation. It has been conclusively proved that these products produce direct microscopic changes in the nerve cells. The theory is that if they are quickly thrown off, the cell returns to its normal condition; but if left there by the cells being unable to perform their proper functions the poison becomes fixed. The whole nutrition of the body is dependent upon the normal action of the brain. In time these cells, acted upon by poisons that they are given no opportunity to throw off, become decadent; they lose their vitality, and doing this, affect the cells near them. In the body the effect is shown in this way: the body itself begins to fail. The man can not eat and can not assimilate. The brain is intimately connected with the other organs, and one of these, or perhaps more than one, being imperfectly nourished and imperfectly provided for, forms into some sort of local disease. Of this the man dies. His death is ascribed to the local disease, but it was worry that brought it all about.

Some idea of the workings of the brain and the connections between its different parts is necessary in order to fully grasp this theory of the frequent fatal effects of worry. The nervous or brain tissue is composed of little cells, each division of the brain having its peculiar shape of cells, some of the divisions, several different kinds. The shoots from each cell are what the fibers, that run like telegraph wires from cell to cell are fastened to. Tied together, as it were, by these fibers, the cells rest in a glutinous, half-pasty mass that is called protoplasm. The nerves or fibers not only connect the cells of the cerebrum, the cerebellum, the medulla oblongata, and the spinal cord, they connect the huge network of nerves that runs over the entire system, connecting with every organ. Neither these fibers nor the cells themselves can be discerned by the naked eye. They require a high power microscope. Seen with the top of the skull and its sides lifted off, the brain is of a grayish color, not like a sponge, as would be supposed from the cells, but curving outward, and so hard that it takes quite a pressure of the fingers to make an indentation in it. The cerebrum occupies the entire front part of the skull, the most of the top and runs well back, and lying partly beneath it is the cerebellum or "little brain."

At the base of the brain, right at the junction of the spinal cord, is the medulla oblongata. The nerve centers of hearing and vision are well down in the skull, toward the back; the centers of motion and sensation about midway in the skull and at the top. Little is known about thought and perception, judgment, reason and their attendant senses, except that they are all laid directly behind the frontal bones, and that it is here that the will power is generated, to be telegraphed into every corner of the body. These cells here, some of which seem to be constantly in service, others only at times, are really the most important of the brain. They are the seat of the mind, and it is these, and these only that the malady of "worry" strikes to kill.

A man may worry, it is true, for years, and there may be no bad result. A woman may fret on and on and still keep fairly well. But there is always the danger of possession of the "one idea" suddenly grown to be dormant, mastering the will power and paralyzing, as it were, the working of the system.

Death does not, in a large proportion of cases result. A man or woman may be sick almost unto death with any disease and yet not die. Worrying as a disease of itself, has other dangers. Such a thing as a partial injury is possible, an injury to the brain cells that will not kill, but will bring sickness, discomfort and weariness of life along with it. Thus we see that worry is as dangerous as an electric spark and should be carefully avoided. It may not be possible to avoid it entirely but that should be our aim.

Life is a conflict, a battle, in which the "survival of the fittest," as well as the success and longevity of the unfittest, is sometimes peculiarly exemplified. In this struggle for existence, few of us can hope to escape toil and trouble. To labor is the common lot and genius itself is but a special aptitude for labor,

steady, patient, persistent toil. But the efforts and energies that which half a century ago would have resulted in fame and fortune, now hardly suffice to place one upon the ordinary level. The country is so rapidly populating and competition becoming so active and intense, one has to strain every nerve to win in the race. To-day, we have knowledge, intelligence and education well-nigh universal; they are the common lot and heritage. As Professor Agassiz said: "The time has come when knowledge and truth must cease to be the property of the few,—when they must be woven into the common life of the world."

Civilization moves rapidly forward with mighty strides, bearing its grand motto: "Oswald, Improvement, Progress."

"And I don't not through the ages, one in a thousand, have resulted in fame and fortune, now hardly suffice to place one upon the ordinary level. The country is so rapidly populating and competition becoming so active and intense, one has to strain every nerve to win in the race. To-day, we have knowledge, intelligence and education well-nigh universal; they are the common lot and heritage. As Professor Agassiz said: "The time has come when knowledge and truth must cease to be the property of the few,—when they must be woven into the common life of the world."

And the thoughts of men are widened with the thought of time. They are broadened and their engines are overworked at their pressure. They strive too actively and worriedly to keep up with, or excel, their perhaps better qualified, brothers in the race. And here is where the danger comes in. The danger comes principally to the over-worked, nervous resident of our large commercial centers. Now, what can be done to counteract these dangers or perhaps to prevent their occurrence? What can be done to give the brain its needed rest? The environment, the surroundings of the individual should be changed. The trend of thought should be made to run through varied channels, and not allowed to pursue the same course continually.

I wonder how many there are that appreciate the value of the Grange. I wonder how many of you realize what a blessing it is. My friends, it is a God-send, it is a boon to the farmers and farmers' wives. It is of inestimable benefit to those who partake of its advantages. Why do I say this, you ask? Why do I think the Grange so much valued? With the average farmer, there is the daily round of his work. It is much the same day after day, week after week, and during the Summer months from early morning till late at night. So, too, it is with his wife. She toils hard and diligently at her household duties all day long, and arises each morning to go through the same course again. She has little else to take up her mind but her work. Her thoughts are ever upon it. Here, my friends, is where the danger lies. Something was needed to relieve the monotony, both physically and mentally, of the daily work. Something was needed to give the mind a change, and in consequence make the physical labors less arduous. The Grange came to the rescue. It supplied a long-felt want. I believe the Grange was a natural outgrowth of necessity and it has been of untold value. It gives its members frequent opportunities to meet together in a social way. The change it affords is restful. It gives the members opportunities to discuss topics of the day and debate questions that deeply interest them. They exchange ideas, receive suggestions, and, as a result, their minds are broadened, their bodies rested and the better prepared to take up the work. Those who attend the meetings carry away with them food for thought; their daily tasks are thereby made easier and lighter. The point is often brought up, and many think that the farmers and their wives, those who engage in household duties, are the least liable to become affected by the malady of "worry." My friends, please examine with me for a moment, the last report of the Maine Insane Hospital at Augusta. Let us turn to page 41, table No. 12, of that report, and what do we find? We see these figures: We find that for the year ending Dec. 31, 1896, out of the 149 male inmates, 40 were farmers, the next lower number represented by any occupation being 34. What else? That of the 91 female inmates during that same year, 68 were engaged in household duties. That is, of the 249 inmates, 108 were farmers and those engaged in household duties. Do you wonder, then, that the Grange has been of so much benefit? and I am sorry that more farmers do not make use of the great opportunities offered. I said a short time ago that in order to counteract certain dangers, the trend of thought should be made to run through varied channels and not allowed to pursue the same course continually.

Here is where the vacation season comes into play to relieve the strain, recruit the system and prepare it anew for the conflict. Vacations are the "safety-valves" of our modern civilization. Recreation is re-creation. The over-taxed brain, the body tired and weary with the ceaseless routine of multifarious duties need rest and recreation. Hence it has become a fashion as well as a necessity for people, particularly denizens of the city, to fly to the river and lake, and there obtain good, solid comfort among the rural scenery, the quiet nooks and shadowy dells of primeval nature. How many times the tired merchants, weary accountants or clerks, the busy lawyer, clergyman, physician—as well as the tolling workman, cooped up, perhaps, in some heated city; how often they long for the country. One may be all alone with ten thousand around him, still he sighs for the sweet seclusion of nature's solitudes. He knows that in the sylvan shades and the white sunlight of the rural regions he will receive renewed health and energy for the earnest duties of life. If Sancho Panza invoked blessings upon the man who invented sleep, we should also praise the man who invented vacations. It is not well for a man to remain forever in the same place, and thus he differs from the tree which flourishes the more luxuriantly, the more solidly it is rooted. With a human being, I believe that a change of scene and thought is the best medicine to prescribe for the tired or routine-tortured person.

So we have seen that in order to prevent that one idea getting control, in its attempt to overthrow the system, it is almost absolutely necessary or essential to vary, to some degree, at least, the course of thought that the brain is to pursue.

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THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 1898.

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A DAY DREAM—OUR SENTIMENTS.

Along about this time of year  
I catch myself a-visitin'  
For some way to get out of here.  
An' take a day off fishin'.  
I'd like to find some cool, deep stream,  
With banks all green with grass.  
Where I could set an' fish an' dream  
An' let the hours go pass.  
A hick'ry pole 'o' the right size—  
No 'nted rod fer me.  
No Jim-crack reel, no book o' flies,  
I want to fish, you see—  
A ten-yard line, a Lin'rick hook,  
With a worm put on just right;  
Then I'd sit down beside the brook,  
A-waitin' for a bite.  
I'd lean my back again a tree.  
An' light my pipe anew.  
A picture of content I'd see  
With naught to do but see  
If I'd only have my way.  
If I'd get my wish.  
I'd have some fun for one half day.  
If I didn't catch a fish.  
MILLER FURVIS.

The ladies surely will find special interest in the essay in the Home Department of this issue. It is by one of our brightest writers.

The address by Prof. Lane, published in the last Farmer was worth more than a year's subscription to any farmer or reader. It was a rich, ripe production.

Don't pass by the address on "Worry" by Dr. Watson, to be found on the second page. It is one of those helpful papers, the value of which cannot be computed.

"We go to war with Spain," says the New York Times, "not for the accomplishment of an ambition, but in obedience to the laws of nature. It is time this thing were done and we do it, as the ripened fruit drops from the tree."

The lively discussion going on in our advertising columns over the merits of different makes of Separators calls wide attention to a machine coming to be considered a necessity by every man owning a herd of five or more cows. Those who have not purchased should investigate.

Massachusetts appropriates \$500,000 for war purposes, and New Hampshire provides \$25,000 for the same. New Hampshire senators and one representative have shouted louder for war than any other Eastern members. This contrast affords still another illustration of the fact that those who shout loudest are not always those who do the most.

"The one thing for our dairymen to do," said Mr. F. J. Gerry, Dexter, the successful butter maker, to the writer, "is to let the fact be known that from the feed bins and mow to the consumer, the utmost care is observed to maintain quality in our cream and butter. Doing this, the market will be open at paying prices."

General Lewis Wallace, the noted author and brave soldier has withdrawn as a candidate for senator to tender his services to the Government in the field, but we do not hear of any senators or congressmen resigning to engage in the conflict which they have striven so hard to precipitate. Congress would do more and better service if some of its members would enlist for the war.

War maps are good things to have in the family nowadays, as geography is something that we may all study to advantage. It is recalled that Lord Palmerston was not ashamed to ask one, in a cabinet meeting, where a certain island was, about which he was proposing to go to war—Boston Herald.

The large map given by the Maine Farmer is the best and most complete to date. See our grand offer on 2nd page.

Hon. J. H. Manley sent to Senator Frye the following expressive message, Saturday: "Maine Central is not a soulless corporation. Its Directors voted unanimously that if any of the employees of the road served in this war, they should receive half pay from the road while absent, and their places restored to them upon their return." No other corporation of such a corporation are loyal to its interests and render willing service.

The National Guards of Maine will be called out Monday, May 2. All the companies will leave home, Monday, on special troop trains, except the three companies located at Calais, Eastport and Machias, who will embark, Tuesday morning on an international steamer for Mount Desert ferry, where they will take the Maine Central for Augusta. It is reported that Lieut. Morton will command the regiment of Maine troops. A message from Washington states that Maine troops will rendezvous at Portland instead of Augusta.

In a recent address Mr. Booker T. Washington opens up one of the tendencies of the day in the following manner: "Our race is in too big a hurry. The preachers want the title of D. D. before they know divinity. We want a biography before we have lived. Some want to take Latin and Greek who do not know the personal pronoun in English. Some want postoffices who do not know how many stamped envelopes to give for eleven cents. Go to the farm; stick to the farm. We do not want to govern the country until we learn to govern the home."

KEEP AT YOUR BUSINESS.

A little good common sense will save valuable time during the weeks at hand. Terrible as are the conditions with which this Nation has unwillingly been forced there is no cause for a scare. Keep cool and use your judgment. The Spanish in order to do any damage to coast or interior of this country must cross the ocean. This calls for ships not sailing vessels. These ships must have free access to an abundant coal supply, and traverse a long stretch of country more or less protected. The United States has its navy for protection, its mines and fortifications. More than this, its army and navy would be upon their own familiar camping ground and but a few hours distant from the base of supplies. The quantity of coal which a vessel can carry is limited. Transports cannot follow war ships into action as they would retard that rapidity of movement necessary for success. For these reasons the line of retreat must be kept open and the center of action be not too far distant. If Spain is able to raise the blockade on the coast of Cuba and make Havana a safe feeding station for the navy she could then do serious damage to our coast. But before this is accomplished the navy of the United States must be wiped out. Evidently the policy with this government is to insist upon feeding the non-combatants in Cuba and force Spain to make the issue in Southern waters. Instead of a senseless scare the work of this Nation should go on at a lively pace. Sow the fields and prepare for the harvest. Supply the wants of the hungry and keep faith with better judgments and wiser counsels. Doing this we shall be the better prepared for whatever may come.

GOOD ROADS BULLETIN.

Sec'y McKen proposes a "Good Roads" bulletin.  
Recognizing the importance of highway improvement, we have made this the good roads number for the season, and will be glad to have you give your ideas on general road improvement, including such legislation as in your judgment is desirable, whether or not a State Highway Commission is desirable, what should be the first move looking to improvements, best methods of repairing roads in summer and breaking in winter, if you have had experience with snow rollers, please give results, what should be done to clear the bridges, best season to work on the roads, and any other ideas which may suggest themselves to you. These blanks will be sent to all road commissioners in addition to our regular correspondents, and we hope for interesting articles from them, and shall also insert abstracts from the new road laws of various States.  
In addition the attempt will be made to cover the condition of grass fields, fruit trees, local prices for all crops both in 1897 and 1898.

A LAW SCHOOL IN MAINE.

The announcement is made that with the opening of the new college year at Orono, a law department will be established under the charge of Prof. George E. Gardner, who is now connected with the University of Illinois. The young men of Maine will hereafter find ample opportunity for completing their studies without being obliged to go to Harvard, Albany or Yale. We shall in the future, have not the foreign, but the home-trained lawyer. This feature must prove an attraction, and backed as it will be by men of influence and standing at the bar, the future lawyers of Maine may well consider its claims.

The following, taken from the Journal of Education, published in Boston, is a merited tribute to Prof. Weston's annual report, notice of which has already been given in the Farmer.

State Superintendent W. W. Weston's report of the schools of Maine for 1897 is one of the great educational documents of the day, as it is of all time. There has never been a greater contribution to the cause of rural schools than that section of the report which is entitled "A Study of the schools of Northern Maine." No other man in any land or age has treated rural schools more intelligently and more helpfully than is here done. This ought to be printed in large quantities, that all may have it who need it. Indeed, it should have as large circulation as the famous Fifth Annual Report of Horace Mann.

Sample copies of the Maine Farmer will be sent to any address. If you have a neighbor not a subscriber send his name to the office.

## THE MAINE FARMER: An Agricultural and Family Newspaper. April 28, 1898.

### LATEST WAR NEWS.

The first gun has been fired and the course of events will now be watched with a lively interest by every true patriot. The ultimatum of President McKinley was not allowed to be presented the Spanish Government, the passport of Minister Woodford being returned before it was received. This summary action severed all connection, and was, in itself, a virtual declaration of the opening of hostilities. Following closely came the capture of several war vessels by our gun boats, and on Monday morning the proclamation of President McKinley:

I transmit to the Congress, for its consideration and appropriate action, copies of correspondence recently had with the representative of Spain and the United States, with the United States Minister at Madrid and through the latter, with the Government of Spain, showing the action taken under the joint resolution approved April 20, 1898, "for the recognition of the independence of the people of Cuba, demanding that the Government of Spain relinquish its authority and give to the island of Cuba, and withdraw its land and naval forces from Cuba and Cuban waters, and directing the President of the United States to carry these resolutions into effect."

Upon communicating to the Spanish Minister in Washington to demand which it became the duty of the Executive to address to the Government of Spain in obedience to said resolution, the Minister asked for his passports and withdrew. The United States Minister at Madrid was in turn notified by the Spanish Minister for foreign affairs that the withdrawal of the Spanish representative from the United States had terminated diplomatic relations between the two countries and that all official communications between their respective representatives ceased therewith.

I commend to your special attention the note addressed to the United States Minister at Madrid by the Spanish Minister for foreign affairs on the 21st inst., whereby the foregoing notification was conveyed. It will be perceived therefrom that the Government of Spain, having cognizance of the joint resolution of the United States Congress and in view of the things which the President is thereby required and authorized to do, responds by treating the reasonable demands of this Government as measures of hostilities, following with that instant and complete severance of relations by its action, which by the usage of nations accompanies an existent state of war between sovereign powers.

The position of Spain being thus made known and the demands of the United States being denied with a complete rupture of intercourse by the act of Spain, I have been constrained in exercise of the power and authority conferred upon me by the joint resolution aforesaid, to proclaim under date of April 22, 1898, a blockade of certain ports of the North coast of Cuba, lying between Cardenas and Bahia Honda and of the port of Cienfuegos on the South coast of Cuba, and further in exercise of my constitutional powers, and using the authority conferred upon me by the act of Congress, April 22, 1898, to issue my proclamation dated April 23, 1898, calling for volunteers in order to carry into effect the said resolution of April 20, 1898. Copies of these proclamations are hereto appended.

In view of the measures so taken and with a view to the adoption of such other measures as may be necessary to enable me to carry out the expressed will of Congress of the United States in the premises, I now recommend to your body the adoption of a joint resolution declaring that a state of war exists between the United States of America and the kingdom of Spain, and I urge speedy action thereon to the end that the definition of the international status of the United States as a belligerent power may be made known and the assertion of all its rights and the maintenance of all its duties in the conduct of a public war be assured.

(Signed) WM. McKINLEY.

Executive Mansion, Washington, April 25.

The call of the President for one hundred and twenty-five thousand volunteers, gives Maine's quota at 172. This call was received at the executive department, Augusta, at 6:30, Monday night.

Congress formally declared war to exist between the United States and Spain, Monday. The Senate passed the naval appropriation bill carrying large amounts of money for the improvement of the navy; the Hull army reorganization bill was passed by the Senate and now goes to conference.

There was talk of establishing a supply depot in the Philippines to meet the conditions in Asiatic waters. Our fleet there now has no home and under neutrality laws the stay of the ships in any port is limited to a few hours. This is unpleasant besides involving the expenditure of a great deal of coal, so that it may become necessary for Commodore Dewey to seize a port in the Philippines and fortify it as a base of supplies.

An attack on Manila will probably have been made next Saturday. The Spaniards have one good cruiser at Manila, the Reina Christina, of 3,500 tons; four effective gunboats of less than 1,200 tons, and half a dozen smaller craft of no fighting value. Manila has a few modern guns mounted, but will be powerless against such a force as that of the American fleet.

The department Monday, purchased two more tugs, the Hortense of New Orleans and May Willick of Galveston.

The feature of interest at the War Department was the despatch to the governors of the States and territories of circulars notifying them how many men they would be expected to furnish as volunteers, where they should be apportioned among the three arms of the service and where they should rendezvous in the United States army.

The department got notice Monday that John Logan, son of the late Senator Logan, had raised a cavalry regiment which he offered to the government under his own command. It is hoped that this can be accepted as a part of the quota of men to be furnished by Illinois.

John Jacob Astor of New York, not content with offering the government his splendid yacht Nourmahal and free transportation for troops and supplies over the railroads in which he is interested, has come forward with notice that he has raised and equipped at his own expense a battery of artillery, which he desires to offer to the government under his own name for service in Cuba.

The official of the British foreign office expect that the London Gazette, the government official organ, will issue at once a formal notice that the warships of Spain and the United States must leave British ports within 24 hours.

The document contains clauses covering the case of vessels which are unable to leave in the stipulated time, owing to defects.

The authorities of the British ports have already been notified that the order is about to be published.

With an important exception, there is general continental condemnation for the United States to-day. This exception emanates from Russia. The St. Petersburg Vedomosti, treating of Russia's attitude toward the United States, says:

"The friendship which has subsisted for many years between the two States excludes every idea of an unfriendly attitude upon the part of Russia at the present juncture."

The Vedomosti adds: "No doubt the United States now values this friendship more than ever."

The other continental newspapers continue their bitter hostility, and the London Sunday papers contain many indications of unfriendliness.

The War Department has received offers of over 500,000 volunteers from governors of States thus far. All States are not yet heard from.

The rush of Americans to volunteer has aroused great satisfaction in London. "America can raise a million men and two billion dollars inside of a year," says one afternoon paper.

New York's quota of volunteers will be 12,512. Guarantees of 100,000 have already been secured.

Governor Leedy says 20,000 volunteers have offered their services from Kansas.

First Lieutenant, Andrew S. Rowan of the 19th Infantry, under orders from the war department, was landed on the Cuban coast somewhere West of Santiago, before dawn on Monday. Cuban guides and an open sailboat were used. The guides have not returned.

Lieut. Rowan is on his way to the camp of Gen. Garcia. He will represent the war department in arranging for the co-operation of the insurgents in the invasion of Eastern Cuba by the forces of the United States. The time and place of invasion will be controlled by events and the character of Lieut. Rowan's dispatches.

Lieut. Rowan was detailed by the bureau of information for this dangerous service—dangerous because in his civilian dress he is liable to be treated as a spy. He speaks Spanish and knows Cuba, having written a book on the subject. Moreover he is an expert map maker.

Secretary Sherman retired finally, Tuesday, from the position of Secretary of State, and his successor was confirmed in the person of Judge Day. John Bassett Moore, undoubtedly will be confirmed, to-morrow, as Judge Day's assistant.

The Red Star Line steamer Penland, which left Philadelphia April 16, has arrived at Kingston, Jamaica, and reports that she has sighted the American liner Paris, which the Spaniards are said to be trying to capture, but, last Sunday, the Penland sighted a Spanish warship, which was steaming rapidly at the time. The Carlos V is a first class armored cruiser, and left Havre for Ferrol on Apr. 3.

The U. S. warship Minneapolis was sighted off Mt. Desert, at 3:30 P. M., Tuesday, bound East to protect the Maine coast. The Spanish fleet is still at St. Vincent, coaling and taking supplies.

AN EVENTFUL WEEK.

Not only in the formal declaration of hostilities, which is given in another column, but in other fields the past week has been one of the most eventful known for years. The resignation of two Cabinet officers came as a surprise to the American people. Postmaster General Gary's resignation had absolutely nothing whatever to do with our foreign complications. It was owing entirely to the condition of his health. Several years ago he was taken with a severe attack of Bright's disease, but he rallied, and it was thought he had fully recovered. Of late, however, the old symptoms have again returned, complicated with heart trouble. Recently he has had a number of sinking spells that have seriously alarmed his friends, and upon the instant advice of his physician he concluded to resign. The President at once appointed Charles Emory Smith of Pennsylvania to be Postmaster General.

Following this came the retirement of John Sherman, Secretary of State, because of physical inability to perform the duties of the office under present complications. His successor will be Asst. Sec'y Day, who has proved a most valuable officer in many ways.

Thursday, an infernal machine was sent to the President. Fortunately its character was suspected and measures taken to prevent its explosion, and no harm was done. The machine was enclosed in a harmless-looking cigar box.

An ingenious contrivance had been arranged so that when the lid of the box was opened there would be a flash of powder which would explode a stick of giant powder sufficient to blow a man to atoms. As a result of this incident additional measures were taken to guard the Executive Mansion. The police force was doubled, and to-morrow it is expected that a detail from the district militia will form an additional outside guard to the approaches to the White House grounds. Congress has passed a resolution authorizing the President to prohibit the export of coal or other material used in war from any seaport of the United States until otherwise ordered.

The State of Texas sailed from Key West, Sunday, with a full load of supplies, under the Red Cross flag, bound for Cuba. Skilled nurses and physicians are on board and help for the helpless is now on the way. How this step will be received by the Spanish authorities remains to be seen.

While little importance attaches to the capture of the half dozen smaller Spanish vessels laden with merchandise in evidence activity on the part of our sailor boys. Five prizes were brought in on Sunday.

The gunboat Wilmington captured the Spanish schooner Candida, with a deckload of charcoal intended for Havana, and the torpedo boat Porter the schooner Antonio, loaded with sugar for Havana.

The gunboat Helena, Commander W. T. Swinburn, captured the Spanish steamer Miguel Jover, bound from New Orleans for Barcelona with a cargo amounting to about 2,000 tons of cotton and staves.

The prize is estimated to value at \$150,000, her cargo alone being worth \$100,000. She belonged to the Pinillo line, Barcelona.

The Helena did not sail with the fleet on Friday morning, but remained there until Monday, when she steamed out to sea. She was cruising about 150 miles in a southeasterly direction when the Jover, steering a southeasterly course, hove in sight early Monday morning.

The Helena fired a blank shot and the Spaniard instantly hove to.

The revenue cutter Winona from Mobile captured the Spanish steamer Saturnina at Ship Island at 1 o'clock Monday, but likely will have to remain in quarantine with the prize until the time of quarantine detention is out.

The Saturnina is from Sagua to Ship Island, 1873 tons, Senor Zuclaga in command.

Ensign Christy, with a crew of 16 men from the cruiser Detroit and four from the flagship brought into Key West Monday afternoon the captured Spanish steamer Catalina, Capt. Fano, 3,491 tons, which left Cadiz, Mar. 7, and was bound from New Orleans for Barcelona via Havana, for which latter port she was making her way.

The Catalina was captured about 4 o'clock Sunday morning 12 miles from Havana. She was taken by the cruiser Detroit.

When the first shot was fired her captain made a desperate effort to escape his pursuer and the chase was prolonged for eight miles.

Finally a solid shot brought her to. She is carrying a cargo of 6,000 bundles of staves.

The New York, leading the battle-ships in the blockade made a successful run after a steamer.

Away in the distance, close under the mist-covered hills of Cuba, midway between Havana and Matanzas, could be seen the outlines of a large vessel heading to the eastward. Then the old cry of "A chase," "A chase," echoed fore and aft, and the officers and crew of the New York gathered on her deck, eagerly watching the flagship churn through the blue water, foaming white at her stern, until she was making about 18 knots.

The admiral paced the forward bridge as calmly as if he were watching an apotat race.

The New York gained rapidly on the stranger to the great delight of all on board the cruiser. It was evident that the latter would cut off the steamer from escape. The crew of the New York, by this time were at their stations, and the guns were loaded and trained.

The Spanish flag ran up.

When the Spanish flag was seen flying at the stranger's stern, a cry of delight went up from the blue jackets on board the New York. It was evident that the Spaniard was doing her best to get away from the cruiser, and was heading in a nearer and nearer to the coast, hoping to find safety in shallow water where the warships would not dare to follow her.

When the Spaniard was about three miles from the shore, and about a mile from the New York, an eight-inch gun

from the cruiser's forward turret suddenly belched out a stream of fire, accompanied by a crashing report.

It was only meant as a warning shot, but the steel projectile went ricocheting over the water, in dangerous proximity to the fleeing merchantman. The echo of the report had hardly died away among Cuba's hills when the Spaniard hove to. About ten minutes later the New York was near her. It proved to be the Pedro, of Bilbao, an excellent prize.

The lighthouse tender Mangrove, the baby of the navy, puffed proudly into Key West Harbor, Tuesday morning, with the richest prize of the war thus far, a vessel four times her size. It was the Panama; a big trans-Atlantic liner and an auxiliary cruiser of the Spanish navy, which has been plying of late between New York and Havana.

The members of the legislature of Maine are bringing every influence possible to bear upon the Gov. for a call for a special session. The \$20,000 which it will cost seems a needless expense so long as the Gov. has ample power to act. The people will be satisfied with more work and less parade.

### City News.

—The Judge Libby house on State street has been purchased by Mr. Thomas C. Buckley, one of the younger enterprising dry goods merchants of the city.

—An ugly fire at 34 Grove St., Thursday, injured the house owned by W. H. Reid to the amount of \$1500, and caused heavy loss to furniture owned by the occupant, Mrs. Ida Nichols.

—It has been decided to hold the Republican State convention in City Hall, Augusta, Thursday, June 28th at 11 A. M. Senator Hale was unanimously selected to preside over the convention.

—At the annual meeting of the Village District the resignation of Mr. Geo. W. Vickery, Director, was accepted, and Mr. J. R. Townsend was unanimously elected in his stead, the remainder of the board being the same as last year.

—In the probate court, Monday, the will of Frederick Cony, late of Augusta, was proved, approved and allowed, Laura L. Cony of Augusta, and Weston Lewis of Gardiner, appointed executors. Farmer W. McCurdy and James F. Dearborn of Augusta, and Francis P. McManus of Windsor, were discharged from insolvency.

—The city government has taken the proper steps in regard to Rines hill. It is the travelled hill of the city. At the meeting Monday evening it was ordered that a drain be laid on the Northern side of the hill, also that a blind draft be placed in the middle of the street; that the sidewalk be lower and better constructed, and that the street be covered by two inches of crushed gravel.

—Mayor Haynes made a few remarks at the city government meeting, Monday, relative to the petition presented at the last meeting for the better enforcement of the prohibitory law, and also the complaints that have been made to him that the law is not properly enforced. An order was presented, that the City Marshal be directed to investigate the violations, and if he finds them true, to prosecute the offenders.

—Marshall Morse has issued the following order to drivers of ten-cent teams, which owners of teams will appreciate: "This is to give notice that you are hereby requested not to stand with your public carriage in front of any stores, business places and hotels, except to take and deliver passengers and packages, upon Water street, or Commercial street, in front of platform at passenger depot. If the above notice is not strictly complied with I shall enforce the city ordinance relating thereto."

State Defences.  
The United States signal service men arrived at Boothbay Monday night on their way to Monhegan and Tenants Harbor to establish signal stations.

The first movement towards protecting the Penobscot river against foreign invasion began, Tuesday, when Ordnance Sergeant Leopold H. Rodmans of Fort Knox, commenced operations according to orders received, Monday, from Washington. He is directed to proceed with all possible haste to the best condition possible, and to get everything in readiness for action.

A large crew of men will be set to work removing all growth and brush obstructing the range of the guns. The fort is supplied with shot and shell, but has no powder, and a requisition for a full supply will be forwarded at once.

Fort Knox was commenced in 1846 and completed in 1864. It is one of the finest fortifications of its class on the Atlantic seaboard and cost nearly two million dollars, being erected on a high bluff at Bucksport narrows and commanding the entrance to the Penobscot.

The present armament is somewhat obsolete and consists of five fifteen-inch and forty ten-inch smooth bore Rodmans within the outside batteries and barbets, twenty twenty-four pound howitzers in the flanks. There are fifteen carriages without guns. The fort was never garrisoned, but has accommodations for five hundred men.

The United States engineer corps, volunteer electricians and engineers, have been at work at Portland, the past week, upon the harbor defence works, which are now in position. The battery at Portland head, Fort Preble, and the signal station at Two Lights have been connected by telephone. The crew of workmen at Diamond island has been increased, and the constructing of the fortifications there is being rushed. A call issued, Saturday, for volunteers to join the two divisions of naval militia brought in over 75 young men, including 30 Danes and Swedes, who have seen service at sea. The newly organized divisions will commence drilling at once.

### PERSONAL.

—The following important Maine appointments have been made by Pres. McKinley the past week. George W. Stearns, postmaster, Rumford Falls; Hiram A. Huse, Bath; John Lovejoy, Rockland; Winchester G. Lowell, Auburn; Moses P. Stiles, Norway.

Readers of the Farmer may do the proprietors a kindly service after reading this column, by passing their copy to some friend not a subscriber.

## Took Hood's in the Spring

It Completely Cured a Dreadful Scrofula Humor

From Which He Had Suffered From Boyhood.

If you want a good medicine for your blood, you should take one which absolutely cures blood diseases. The following testimonial and thousands more like it prove that Hood's Sarsaparilla is the greatest blood purifier ever discovered. Read it and take Hood's Sarsaparilla this Spring:

"C. L. Hood &amp; Co., Lowell, Mass.: 'Gentlemen:—I have had a scrofulous humor since I was a boy. Four years ago it culminated in an abscess as large as an apple on the left side of my neck, and extended the whole length of my jaw from the chin to the ear. Being on the neck, it was very painful, and it gradually grew smaller and smaller until I had taken several bottles of your medicine. I shall always be a grateful debtor to Hood's Sarsaparilla. I have gained from 142 to 158 pounds and have a good appetite. I know it was Hood's Sarsaparilla that effected the cure, as I had tried about everything else, but nothing did me any good, not even doctors' medicines. I shall always be a good word for Hood's Sarsaparilla.' GEO. D. STIMPSON, Islington Road, Portsmouth, N. H."

Sarsaparilla. Up to that time I had not had any appetite, and in particular very little breakfast. Since taking Hood's Sarsaparilla, I begin to feel better in every way, and my appetite improved. I found, however, no change in the abscess until I had taken several bottles, when it gradually grew smaller and smaller until I had taken several bottles of your medicine. I shall always be a grateful debtor to Hood's Sarsaparilla. I have gained from 142 to 158 pounds and have a good appetite. I know it was Hood's Sarsaparilla that effected the cure, as I had tried about everything else, but nothing did me any good, not even doctors' medicines. I shall always be a good word for Hood's Sarsaparilla.' GEO. D. STIMPSON, Islington Road, Portsmouth, N. H."

Hood's Sarsaparilla  
is the best Spring Medicine. All druggists, \$1.50 per bottle. C. L. Hood & Co., Lowell, Mass.

Hood's Pills are purely vegetable, reliable, beneficial, 25c.

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